

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2355

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006

PROTECTION OF BUDDHIST SITES .

Baxla Shri Joachim;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether many Buddhist sites in the country are not properly protected by the Government;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Government with the help of foreign agencies have spent crores of rupees on the maintenance of Buddhist sites in the country during past few years;
- (d) If so, the details of the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years; and
- (e) The further steps taken by the Government to properly protect the Buddhist sites in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) All the Buddhist sites in the Country, protected under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological sites & Remains Act, 1958 are properly maintained.

(c) to (e) Archaeological Survey of India has taken up Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project under a soft loan from Japan Bank of International Co-operation. The first phase of the work was completed in 2002 wherein an expenditure of Rs. 9.11 crores was incurred. The phase-II of the project is in progress wherein conservation of Ajanta, Ellora, Pitalkhora and Aurangabad Caves have been identified with a provision of about Rs. 37.90 crores.

In addition, Japan Trust Fund has provided aid for conservation of Stupa at Satdhara.

The expenditure incurred during the last three years on these projects is given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2355 FOR 17.8.2006

Expenditure in Rs. in lakhs

S.No.	Name of the Monument	Year
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	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
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1.	Ajanta Caves	81.17	41.04	86.26
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2.	Ellora Caves	41.41	72.70	50.07
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3.	Aurangabad Caves	0.98	2.49	30.25
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4. Pitalkhora Caves 0.21 0.10 0.43

5. Buddhist stupa - 21.12 10.43
at Satdhara